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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2008

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desp. # 358  
uruguay 26 Jul 49  
possible further effort of an ar-  
gentine agent to penetrate the em-  
bassy, monteideo: renewed attempt  
to peddle the old story of the pre-  
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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☐  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

26 Jul 1949

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

COORDINATED WITH STATE



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

124.336/7-2649

American Embassy

26 June

CONFIDENTIAL

Montevideo, July 26, 1949

No. 358

Subject: Possible further effort of an Argentine agent to penetrate the Embassy, Montevideo: Renewed attempt to peddle the Old Story of the Presence in Argentina of Adolf Hitler and Martin Bormann.

REC'D  
AUG 3

ACTION The Honorable  
ARA The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

336969

INFO  
DCR  
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PER

Sir:

RETAIN OR DESTROY

@Cpt.  
XBUXTON

With reference to the Embassy's despatch no. 839 of December 29, 1948 and despatch no. 237 of May 25, 1949 concerning the efforts of persons believed to be Argentine agents to penetrate the Embassy, I have the honor to report that Captain Francisco Segundo LAZO TOLEDO who, according to the Uruguayan Police authorities, is an Argentine agent called by appointment on an officer of the Embassy on July 21. A memorandum of the conversation with Lazo Toledo is enclosed, together with a memorandum reporting a telephone conversation with Lazo Toledo earlier on the same day.

For more than a year and a half Lazo Toledo has endeavored to get in touch with members of this Embassy. At least four such attempts were made during 1948 as reported in the Embassy's despatch no. 839. All such attempts were rebuffed. On June 23 Lazo Toledo called at the Embassy and asked specifically to see Second Secretary Sidney K. Lafoon. (It is assumed that he obtained Mr. Lafoon's name from others who called at the Embassy presumably on his behalf and who were referred to Mr. Lafoon.) Mr. Lafoon on that occasion declined to see him, and he left his card and telephone number with the receptionist, stating that Mr. Lafoon should be warned that his (Lazo Toledo's) telephone wire was tapped. On July 21 Captain Lazo Toledo telephoned Mr. Lafoon and requested an appointment which was made for that afternoon. It was considered advisable to see him at this point in view of his persistent efforts and for the purpose of (1) hearing his story and (2) making it clear that this Embassy was not concerned itself with developments in Argentina.

Lazo Toledo made no reference to his previous efforts to get in touch with members of this Embassy. He began the conversation with the statement that he had information which might be of interest to the United States Government.

He then

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Despatch no. 358  
Montevideo  
July 26, 1949

He then related the well known but unverified story of a German submarine stopping off Patagonia in 1945 and dis-  
embarcking Hitler and Martin Bormann. He stated that he was  
in a position to furnish further information should we be  
interested. The only point of interest in the entire con-  
versation was the statement by Lazo Toledo that his know-  
ledge of the "arrival of Hitler and Bormann in Argentina"  
and the possibilities of being of assistance to the United  
States Government in tracing their present whereabouts had  
been mentioned only to one other person, namely, John F.  
Griffiths, an American citizen who was accused in September  
1948 by the Argentine Government of having been implicated  
in an attempt to assassinate President and Mrs. Peron  
(Please see Embassy's despatch no. 349, July 22, 1949 and  
previous. Please also see Airgram no. A-86, February 17,  
1949 from Buenos Aires and related correspondence regarding  
Griffiths' offers of alleged information on Martin Bormann.)  
Whether or not Lazo Toledo had some ulterior purpose in  
naming Griffiths was not clear.

The officer who saw Lazo Toledo took the occasion to  
inform him pointedly that this Embassy does not concern it-  
self with developments in Argentina, its activities being  
confined solely to the representation of the United States  
Government in Uruguay.

In view of the fact that Lazo Toledo's movements are  
very closely followed by the Uruguayan authorities and in  
view of the Embassy's friendly relations with the Uruguayan  
Police authorities, it was considered advisable to inform  
the Uruguayan Police of Lazo Toledo's call at the Embassy.  
This was done through the Embassy's liaison officer with  
the Montevideo Police in the late afternoon of July 21, the  
day of Lazo Toledo's call at the Embassy. The Police ex-  
pressed their appreciation for this information and reiter-  
ated that they had definite proof that Lazo Toledo is an  
agent of the Argentine Government.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*James E. Brown, Jr.*  
James E. Brown, Jr.  
First Secretary

Enclosures: *AA*  
✓ Memorandum of Conversation  
dated July 21.  
✓ Memorandum reporting tele-  
phone conversation with  
Lazo Toledo, July 21.

Copy to Buenos Aires.

SKLafoon/ea  
File 350

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Enclosure to despatch no. 358 of July 26, 1949, from Montevideo entitled "Possible Further Effort of an Argentine Agent to Penetrate the Embassy, Montevideo: Renewed Attempt to Peddle the Old Story of the Presence in Argentina of Adolph Hitler and Martin Bormann".

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

July 21, 1949

Subject: Call of Captain Francisco Segundo LAZO TOLEDO, Alias Captain Buxton, Who according to Reliable Uruguayan and Other Sources is an Agent of the Argentine Government.

Captain Lazo Toledo called on me this afternoon at 4 o'clock by appointment (see my previous memorandum reporting telephone conversation with him this morning).

Captain Lazo is swarthy, of average height and size. He has dark brown eyes and a close clipped black Hitlerian mustache with streaks of grey. His hair is jet black, combed straight back and has large patches of grey on either side. Although he had recently shaved, his heavy dark beard was very noticeable. His suit although showing age was neatly pressed. His overcoat was obviously of ancient vintage. His conversation indicated an individual of some education and he related his story in a calm dead-pan manner without any change of expression. Nor did the tone of his voice change during the conversation. He did not once smile during the interview nor did his gaze falter whenever I looked him straight in the eye. The only change in expression came at the end of our conversation as related below.

Captain Lazo without referring to any previous attempts to get in touch with the Embassy (Embassy's despatch no. 839 of December 29, 1949) or to see me stated that he had called to relate a story which might be of interest to us. He then spoke of his service in the Argentine army and the fact that he had been living in Uruguay for three years as a result of some difficulty with the Argentine military authorities which caused his expulsion from the army. He did not volunteer any further information on this subject.

He then related the well-known but unverified story of a German submarine landing off Patagonia and disembarking Hitler and Martin Bormann. He described their disguises and said that only he and one or two other members of the Argentine Army were aware of their arrival. He added that he was in a position to follow through and obtain further information if we so desired. I told him that this was a frequently told story which so far had never been verified and inquired how he, being unable to return to Argentina, could be of any assistance in tracing the present whereabouts of Bormann and Hitler. He said that he could give me a chronological record of the events, the dates on which submarine landed, the place,

etc.,

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Enc. to despatch no. 358 of July 26, 1949, Montevideo.

etc., and other events known to him prior to his departure from Argentina. He referred to friends in the Argentine Army who could assist in the matter. At that point I said that we were of course interested in any information as to the possible existence of Bormann and Hitler in this hemisphere but that this Embassy had nothing whatsoever to do with Argentine matters; our activities here being confined solely to representing the United States on this side of the Rio de la Plata. The conversation continued for some length on the question of Bormann and Hitler before he brought out the only point of interest in the conversation; the fact that his knowledge of these events and the possibilities of being of assistance to the United States Government in tracing the whereabouts of Bormann and Hitler had been mentioned only to one other person, namely, John F. Griffiths whom he added "you undoubtedly know". I said that I knew of Mr. Griffiths.

Lazo repeated his story and endeavored to convince me of his veracity and the desirability of trying to locate Bormann and Hitler. He again at an appropriate point in the conversation reiterated that other than myself he had spoken on the matter only to John Griffiths whom he said "you will recall was accused by the Peron Government of having attempted to assassinate President Peron and his wife". At that point he began to speak of the Nazi influence in the Peron Government and of his disagreement with the present Argentine authorities. I reiterated that we were not interested in Argentine matters. During the conversation he made some references, albeit somewhat weakly, to the fact that he was here in exile like Saumartino (Argentine Radical Party leader) and other anti-Peron Argentine citizens.

After a thirty-minute conversation it was apparent that he had nothing more to add and I indicated my desire to terminate the conversation. At this point he said that he would leave his card and address in case I should at any future time have any interest in the subjects discussed. As he departed I remarked with some emphasis that "you should not forget that this Embassy's activities are confined solely to the promoting of good relations between the United States and Uruguay and that we are not concerned with events in the Argentine republic". I said that as he well knew we had an ambassador in Buenos Aires and maintained friendly relations with the present Argentine Government. At this point his dead-pan expression changed slightly and he left without further comment.

SKLafoon

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MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

CONFIDENTIAL

July 21, 1949

Subject: Activities of Argentine Agents (my memorandum of June 23 regarding Captain Lazo Toledo).

At 11:50 this morning someone telephoned me and identified himself as being Captain LAZO TOLEDO who had endeavored on several occasions to speak with me. He said that Mr. Lafoon had either been occupied or absent from the office and that he had been unable to speak with him. When I informed him that I was Mr. Lafoon, he requested an appointment to see me. I did not ask him what his business was or make any other comment other than to say that if he wished he could come in some time around 4 o'clock. He said he would do so. No other statements were made either by Lazo Toledo or by me.

SKLafoon

SKL/ea

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